

(Translated by OFTAIA)

The Deep Impression Given by the Imperial Forces.  
Foreigners in Hankow treat the Imperial Forces  
to Suspend its Movement from Hankow.

Hankow, 5th, by special correspondent Yamada

Within only two days after the Imperial Army had broken into Hankow, their long awaited destination, they completed the mopping-up operations and since the 27th, the city has been placed under the guard of the Sano and Wakamatsu units. Not only the defense of the banks against the enemy's flooding plan but also the protection of the important buildings in the city, sanitation and the preservation of peace are so perfect and ideal that, since the occupation by the Imperial Army no fires or looting, spoliation have taken place in the city. Not only the Chinese but also many foreigners shed tears of joy for the kind attitude of the Imperial Army.

A pleasant story was told concerning the foreigners who had been so impressed by the outstandingly perfect guarding on the part of our forces and started a movement to have the part of the Imperial Army, which was scheduled to be transferred from the foreign settlement there in alternation with another unit, remain in its present place. The details of the story are as follows:

As soon as the Imperial Army entered Hankow a certain unit led by Captain HIGO Teruhide (from KAGOSHIMA Prefecture) of SANO Butai, took over from the British troops the duty of guarding the third special area (the former British Concession). As to the way their performing their guard duty, discipline was maintained with great strictness, and nothing was looted. They treated the foreign rights very properly, and they were far more humane than the Chinese Army toward the others. The foreigners, who had not known what the Japanese Army might do come therefore, to admire the manner of guarding of the HIGO-TAI who were both humane and helpful.

But SANO-Butai was ordered to move<sup>to</sup> a certain district on a certain mission. At this news, the foreigners sent a genuine petition to the Army authorities. It was as follows:

"We regret that your unit which has been so friendly to us should be leaving. Can't anything be done to suspend your move? We ask the favour of you, at least to permit that HIGO-Tai stay."

This was delivered from the authorities to SANO-Butai. It was really a beautiful episode, but this BUTAI could do nothing as that movement had already been so decided upon by the military authorities and the foreigners were greatly disappointed.

CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE

I hereby certify that the article attached, written in Japanese, consisting of one page and entitled, "The deep impression given by the Imperial Force. Foreigners entreat the Imperial Army to suspend its movement from Hankow" is an excerpt from the NIYAZAI SHIMBUN in 1938, Nov. and which has been thenceforth in my custody.

certified at Tokyo,  
on this 8th day of April, 1947

/s/ SANO torata (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the witness.

at the same place,  
on the same date

Witness: /s/ IMANARI Yasutaro (seal)

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, William E. Clarke, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ William E. Clark (Seal)

Tokyo, Japan

Date 6th May 1947

皇宣ノ温情ニ感歎

轉達取止メ歎願

漢口ノ外人ガ引留禁

「漢口ニテ山田特派員五日鑑」皇軍方待望ノ漢口ニ突入スルヤタツタ二日間テ殘敵撃滅ヲハリ二十七日カラハ佐野、若松兩部隊、手テ市内警備ヲシテキル方、外ハ譲ノ氾濫奈ニ歸ヘテノ堤防警戒カラ市内重要建物ノ保護、衛生、保安ナドイタレリックセリテ皇軍占領以來ハ市内ニハ火事モナケレバ掠奪モナイトイフ理想的ナ警備アリ漢口ノ市街ニ平和ヲ齎シテクレタ皇軍ノアマリニモ親切ナ態度ニ支那人ハモトヨリ多數外人マテ隨喜ノ氛ヲ流シテ喜ンテキル有様ダアマリニモ水際タツタ警備アリニ列國租界カラ皇軍ノ一部方今度他ノ部隊ト交代シ某方面ニ轉出スルノニ對シテ留任運動マテ起ツテキルトイフトテツモナイ愉快ナ話方巻起ツタ、ソノ話トイフノハカウダ」

皇軍方漢口ヘ突入スルヤイギリス兵ト交代シテ第三特別區（舊イギリス租界）ノ警備ヲ擔當シタ、方佐野部隊肥後盛英大尉（鹿兒島縣出身）ノ指揮

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スル〇 懸念ツミガ、ソノ管領アリト來テハ軍紀嚴正ニシテ一概モ犯サズ外國權益ニ對シテハ處置スコブル當ヲ得テフリ、オマケニ接シテ見レバ日本ノ兵隊サンノアタタカ味アルコトハ支那兵ト雲泥ノ違ヒト來テキル、日本軍方來タテヲチニワヤルカワカラナイト内心ビクビクモダツク外人這モコノ花モ實モアル肥後隊ノ管領ニ心カラ惚レコンデシマツタノテアツタトコロガ佐野部隊ハアル任務ヲ帯ビテ〇〇方面ニ轉進スルコトニナツタノテ、コレヲ聞イタ外人連ハ折角親シクシティタゞイシ部隊方行カレルトハ名殘惜シイ限りテス、ナントカ交代ヲ思ヒ止マツテ下サイ、セメテ肥後隊ダケテモト眞心コメテノ誠願方當局ヘ提出サレ眞カラ佐野部隊ヘ傳達サレルヤド聞クニ美ハシイ語ダツクガ同部隊テモステニ轉進ヲ決定シタアトテアリイマサラ如何トモナスク得ズ外人クニ非常ニ殘念ガツテキ

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文書ノ出所ニスル證明

本書ニ添付セル一皇軍ノ温情ニ感激、轉進取止メ歎  
顧上題スル文書ハ一九三八年十一月某日ノ宮崎新  
聞ノ切抜ニシテ余方記念トシテ保存シ居リタルコト

ヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年四月八日 於東京

佐野虎太 E7

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタルモノナル

コトヲ證明ス

同日於同所

立會人 今成泰太郎 E7